# PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

# NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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The Editor will gratefully receive contributions, in English or Tamil, of articles on matters of *National War Front interest*, and publish them, if suitable, as signed articles, in the Bulletin. The articles should be short and reach the Editor a week in advance.

LECTURE CLXXXIX.

## ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS OF FINLAND'S WITHDRAWAL.

## GERMANY NERVOUS ABOUT POSSIBILITY.

(*Oswald Dutch*).

There are three reasons to account for the nervousness prevailing in Germany since the beginning of February concerning Finland's obvious desire to drop out of the war. These reasons are of military, political and economic nature. Of these three considerations, economic anxieties are probably the most pressing at the moment.

The far northern front has lost its importance since the retreat of the German armies on Pskov, though it seems doubtful whether the German Army Command will succeed in withdrawing the six or seven divisions of Alpine troops from the far north of Finland to Norway, or may be to Western Europe.

Political repercussions of Finland's capitulation would undoubtedly be great. For since the collapse of Fascism in Italy the loyalty of all satellite States to Germany has been considerably shaken.

From the economic viewpoint, however, loss of any territory is bound to cause the German Army Command acute anxiety. Finland itself was not only an important source

of raw materials for the German war machine, but its coastal batteries and marine defences afforded protection to German lines of communication with Sweden. The channel between Tallinn and Helsinki, and the great naval base of Hangoe, are of the utmost importance to any Power dependent on the command of the Baltic Sea. Although under the latest commercial agreement Sweden has cut down iron ore exports to Germany by 30 per cent, high grade Swedish ores are still indispensable to the German armaments production.

Finland supplies Germany with great quantities of timber and cellular fibre, of molybdenum, nickel and copper. Up to the present, Finnish lumber had helped to cover the immense requirements in wood and cellular fibre of German synthetic industries. The Germans' urgent need of this wood is clearly proved by the fact that in spite of the large Finnish supplies the forests of the Continent (in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia Rumania and Poland) have not been spared. According to estimates of neutral experts, timber has already been felled in these forests which in properly conducted forestry administration should only have been cut down in the next 30 or 40 years. The German war machine needs this wood, not only as raw material (there is hardly any other) for substitute textile fabrics, but also to an ever increasing extent as motor fuel (wood generator gas).

## GERMAN NICKEL SUPPLIES.

As regards the metals referred to above, Finland and Norway between them satisfied German requirements of molybdenum to the extent of 100 per cent, as well as 64 per cent of the total nickel and 21 per cent of the total copper requirements. Since the destruction of the Norwegian molybdenum mines at Knaben, Finland has been forced materially to increase her molybdenum deliveries to Germany. It may be assumed that in recent months the whole of the German supplies of this metal came from Finland. Half and indeed up to two-thirds of the total annual German nickel supplies came from mines in Northern Finland.

Copper supplies are known to be one of Germany's most vulnerable points. Compared with the total world production, the output of Finnish and Norwegian mines is small, but even this accounted for one-fifth of the copper that Germany can obtain.

In addition to the wood and metals referred to, Finland supplies Germany with considerable amounts of building material which was urgently needed, particularly in north German ports, for the building of hutments after the destruction wrought by Allied bombs.

Lord Selborne, British Minister of Economic Warfare, recently pointed out in a speech that German war production now lived so very much from hand to mouth that it was obliged to rely on even the smallest contributions from countries under German control, to be able to maintain anything like adequate production at all. If individual raw materials become unobtainable, the whole level of German production must sink lower and lower. This is one of the principal reasons why Nazi leaders fear the loss of Finnish raw materials quite as much as military and political repercussions of Finnish capitulation.

# WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

## (A)—LEADING EVENTS.

| | |
|---|---|
| 6—3—44 (Monday). | U. S. Bombers raid *BERLIN* in great strength during day-light. Nazi lose 176 planes. |
| | Red Army cuts the *LWOW—ODESSA* Railway, the German life-line onthe Ukrainian Front. |
| 7—3—44 (Tuesday). | American Air Force raids *TOULON*, the French Mediterranean Naval Base. |
| 8—3—44 (Wednesday). | U. S. Heavy bombers raid *BERLIN* in day-light in great strength. |
| 9—3—44 (Thursday). | U. S. Bombers raid *BERLIN* in day-light. |
| | Russians smash German defences in Southern *RUSSIA*. |
| 10—3—44 (Friday). | Russians capture *UMAN* on the River Bug. |
| 11—3—44 (Saturday). | *DE VALERA*, the Irish Premier, rejects U. S. request to close Axis Legations. |
| | Russians capture *BERISLAVL* on the lower *DNIEPER*. |
| | Allies capture *BUTHIDAUNG* in *BURMA*. |
| 12—3—44 (Sunday). | Russians occupy *GAYVORON*. |
| 13—3—44 (Monday). | *BRITAIN* Stops all travel between *BRITAIN* and *IRELAND* for Military reasons. |
| | Russians capture the Black Sea port of *KHERSON*. |
| | Allies land on 2 more Pacific Isles in the *ADMIRALTY* Group. |

## (B) NEWS IN BRIEF.

**Russia.**—Simultaneous offensives are being carried out in South RUSSIA on the First, Second and Third Ukrainian fronts. The objectives are five key-towns—TARNOPOL, PROSKUROV, VINNITSA, NIKOLAYEV and KHERSON, string along a 300-mile line from Pre-war POLAND to the mouth of the Dnieper. Troops of the Third Ukrainian Front have forced the River Ingulets. All the four Ukrainian Armies have linked up. KHERSON has fallen. Battles are being fought for the reoccupation of NIKOLAYEV and TARNOPOL.

**Italy.**—Bad weather continues to impede operations. The fighting is chiefly local.

**Air-War.**—BERLIN was the chief target of the week. It was attacked on the 8th by American bombers—the 4th time within 6 days. 350,000 incendiary bombs and 10,000 high explosives bombs were dropped. The Erkner factory producing ball-bearing parts, and the Berliner Machinefan factory producing torpedo parts were attacked.

**In the Pacific.**—Allies have landed on the MAGINE ISLANDS (near BOUGAINVILLE) in the SOLOMONS, and the HAUWEI and BUTJOLUO islands in the Admiralty group, Naval aircraft raided PARAMUSHIRO.

**In Burma.**—BUTHIDAUNG has been captured. Allied troops have crossed the Chindwin.

# ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

**5—3—44. (Sunday).**

**EUROPE** (German occupied).

**DAY**:—(6 enemy planes destroyed).
**Airfields and other Military targets** in Northern FRANCE.

**NIGHT**:—
**Objectives** in Western GERMANY (No Allied loss).

**ITALY.**

**Enemy gun positions, motor transport and communications** in the ANZIO Beach-head area.

**RUSSIA.**

(20 enemy planes destroyed).
**Air combats and grounded aircraft** all along the RUSSIAN Front.

**FAR EAST.**

**Jap installations** on ADMIRALTY Islands.
**Airfields** at RABAUL (N. Britain) and **WEWAK** (N. Guinea).
**Barges** at HANSA BAY.
**Coastal targets** at MADANG (N. Guinea).
**Airfields** at BUKA and TOROMINA (Bougainville).
**Barges** off ALTARA.
**Harbour areas** in PONAPE (Carolines) and at KUSAIE.
**MARSHALL** Islands.

**BURMA.**

**Jap airfields** in S. Burma.
**Enemy positions** in the ARAKAN, MAYU and CHIN Hills area.

**6—3—44 (Monday).**

**EUROPE** (German occupied).

**DAY**:—(176 German planes destroyed).
**Targets** in BERLIN District.
**Military targets** in FRANCE and FRENCH coastal area.
**Railway yards** near the BELGIAN border.
**Airfields** north of PARIS and at BEAUVAIS.
**Military objectives** in the PAS DE CALAIS area.

**NIGHT**:—
**Merchant vessels** off the NORWEGIAN coast.
**Railway targets** at TRAPPES near PARIS.
**Objectives** in North-West GERMANY.

**ITALY.**

**Gun posts** on the ANZIO Beach-head area.
**Military targets** near FROSINONE and LITTORIO.
**Airfields** at ORVIETO, FABRICA DI ROMA and VITERBO.
**Railway installations** near FLORENCE.

**RUSSIA.**

(71 enemy planes shot down).
**Air combats and grounded aircraft** all along the RUSSIAN Front.

**FAR EAST.**

**The harbour and airfields** at RABAUL (N. Britain).
**TALA SEA** and **CAPE HOSKINS.**
**Airfield and supply areas** E. of GASMATA (N. Britain).
**Barges** off the New GUINEA coast.
**Enemy positions** at SAUA River, MONOITU and PUKPUK (N. Guinea).
**MALAI** village (SHORTLANDS).
**An aircraft factory** at BANGKOK (Capital of THAILAND).

**BURMA.**

**Bridges** near MOULMEIN.
**The airfield** at ANISAKAN.
**Jap troop and supply positions** in the MAINGKWA–WALAWBUM–SHADUZUP areas.
**Enemy positions and dumps** in the KALADAN, MAYU, ARAKAN and CHIN Hills areas and in South BURMA.

**7—3—44 (Tuesday).**

**EUROPE** (German occupied).

**DAY**:—
**The French Mediterranean Naval base** of TOULON.
**Axis convoy** off the NORWEGIAN coast.

**Night**:—
**Railway yards** at LE MANS (France).
**Objectives** in Western GERMANY (No Allied aircraft missing).
**Docks, shipping and stores** at TOULON (France).

**ITALY.**

**Rail facilities** at PRATO, PONTASIEVE and CASTEL FORENTIONO.
**Airfields** at ORVIETO, VITERBO and FABRICA DI ROMA.
**Railway yards** at OSTIENSE and LITTORIO.
**Docks and Fort** at SAN STEFANO.

**RUSSIA.**

(98 enemy planes destroyed).
**Air combats and grounded aircraft** all along the RUSSIAN Front.

**FAR EAST.**

**Enemy positions** at LORENGAU.
**Airfields** at RABAUL in New Britain (5 Jap planes destroyed).
**Targets** on the MADANG coast.
**Targets** at MOILA Point and TOROKINA Perimeter.

**BURMA.**

**Enemy positions, communications and dumps** in the ARAKAN, KALADAN and MAYU areas.

**8—3—44. (Wednesday).**

**EUROPE** (German occupied).
(125 planes shot down; 54 Allied planes missing).

**DAY**:—
**Industrial targets** in BERLIN area.
**The ball-bearing factory** at ERKNER.
**Airfields** in HOLLAND.
**Military targets** in Northern FRANCE.

**ITALY.**

(6 enemy planes shot down; 9 Allied planes missing).
**Railway yards** at ORTE.
**The harbour** at SAN STEFANO.
**A rail road crossing** at MONTALTO DI CASTRO.
**Targets** in the Beach-head area.
**Enemy shipping** in the ADRIATIC and TYRRHENIAN Seas.

**RUSSIA.**

(58 enemy planes shot down).
**Air combats and grounded aircraft** all along the RUSSIAN Front.

**FAR EAST.**

**The Jap base** of PARAMUSHIRO (Kuriles).
**Airfields** in the MARSHALLS.
**Airfields** at RABAUL (N. Britain).
**Targets** on the MADANG coast (N. Guinea).

**BURMA.**

**Airfields** at SHWEBO, ANISAKAN and ONBAUL.
**Enemy positions** in the ARAKAN and CHIN Hills area.
**Airfields** at KATHA and INDAW.

**9—3—44. (Thursday).**

**EUROPE** (German occupied).
(8 Allied planes missing).

**DAY**:—
**Industrial targets** in the BERLIN area and in CENTRAL GERMANY.
**Military objectives** in Northern FRANCE.

**NIGHT**:—
**An aircraft factory** at MARIGNANE.
**Objectives** in Western GERMANY.

ITALY.

**Railway yards** at ROME, PORTO SAN STEFANO and MONTALTODI CASTRO.
**Gun positions** near CAMPO LEONE.
**Railways** at CAPARANICA.
**Enemy positions** on the ANZIO Beach-head.

RUSSIA.

**Air combats and grounded aircraft** all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

**MARSHALL** Islands.
**Targets** in LORENGAU (Admiralty Islands).
**Panapai airfield** in N. IRELAND.
**Targets** near BORPOP, NAMATANAI and CAPE LEMERIS.
**A small vessel** off MALAGUNA.
**The airfield** at WEWAK (17 Jap planes shot down).

BURMA.

**Enemy positions dumps and communications** in the MAYU, ARAKAN, KALADAN, CHINDWIN, CHIN Hills and N. W. BURMA.
**The railway bridge** at NAMKIN.
**A road bridge** at KAMAING.

**10—3—44 (Friday).**

**EUROPE** (German occupied).

(1 Allied plane missing).

**NIGHT :—**
**13 aircraft factories and a small ball-bearing factory** in Central and S. FRANCE.
**Targets** in Western GERMANY.

ITALY.

**Railway yards** in ROME.
**A bridge** at ORVIETO.
**Gun positions and troop concentrations** in the Beach-head area.

RUSSIA.

(77 enemy planes destroyed).
**Air combats and grounded aircraft** all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

**Jap bases** on the MARSHALL and CAROLINE Islands.
**Airfields** at PONAPE and KUSAIE.
**Airfields** at RABAUL.

BURMA.

**Enemy positions and dumps** in the MAYU, ARAKAN, KALADAN, CHINDWIN CHIN Hills and N.W. BURMA.

**11—3—44 (Saturday).**

**EUROPE** (German occupied).

**DAY :—**
**Targets** in Western GERMANY and in the PAS DE CALAIS area.
**Airfields** in HOLLAND.
**The docks** at TOULON (France).

ITALY.

(36 enemy planes shot down; 14 Allied planes missing).
**Railway yards** at PADUA, FLORENCE and ORVIETO.
**Gun positions, bridges and supply dumps** in the Beach-head area.
**GENOA.**
**Railway targets** on the W. coast of ITALY.

RUSSIA.

(35 enemy planes destroyed).
**Air combats and grounded aircraft** all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

**2 Jap cargo ships** in HOLLANDIA region. (New Guinea).
**Airfields** at RABAUL (N. Britain).
**BONA** area (Solomons).
**Dispersal areas** at WEWAK.
**CAPE NARUM, BOR POP, NAMATANAI** and **KAVIENG** (New Ireland).
**Troop-laden barges** off CAPE HOLLMAN and near UBILI

BURMA.

**Ammunitions, store dumps and troop concentrations** in Northern BURMA.
**Targets** in ARAKAN, MAYU and KALADAN areas.

## ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

**6—3—44 (Monday).**

**BRITAIN and RUSSIA.**

No enemy air activity.

**FAR EAST.**

**Allied positions** in the ARAKAN area in BURMA.

**7—3—44 (Tuesday).**

**BRITAIN.**

No enemy air activity.

**RUSSIA and FAR EAST.**

No information.

**8—3—44 (Wednesday).**

**BRITAIN.**

**LONDON area** (only an alert).

**RUSSIA.**

No information.

**FAR EAST.**

**Allied positions on the** Beach-head in the ADMIRALTY Islands.

**9—3—44 (Thursday).**

**BRITAIN and RUSSIA.**

No enemy air activity.

**FAR EAST.**

**ENIWETOK** (Marshalls).

**10—3—44. (Friday).**

**BRITAIN and RUSSIA.**

No enemy air activity.

**FAR EAST.**

No information.

**11—3—44, (Saturday).**

**BRITAIN.**

**A few places** on the S.E. coast of BRITAIN.

**RUSSIA and FAR EAST.**

No information.

**12—3—44 (Sunday).**

**BRITAIN.**

**LONDON area; 2 places** in South-East ENGLAND.

**RUSSIA and FAR EAST.**

No information.

# SIDE LIGHTS.

**THE VOICE OF INDIA.** We welcome the announcement of Sir Sultan Ahmed, Information and Broadcasting Member of the Government of India, that steps are being taken to increase the facilities for broadcasting from

INDIA to the Far Eastern countries. Giant transmitters, more powerful than all the existing transmitters put together, are going to be installed in NEW DEIHI and messages will be flashed in all the principal languages of INDIA, and the FAR EAST, including Japanese. Hitherto INDIA's broadcasting service has been mainly domestic and defensive, as it were. But, hereafter as, on the military, so on the propaganda front, she will take the offensive. Till now, an unscrupulous enemy has been trying to catch her ear by broadcasting lies. and who can say that some fools have not listened? Similar deluded people in BURMA and other enemy occupied countries must be far more numerous. The Japanese themselves are fed on monstrous lies. It is time they all learnt the truth; INDIA will take up the mission.

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**THE TASKS BEFORE THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT.** Sir Sultan Ahmed has also done well to remind the National War Front workers that their chief tasks at present were four-fold that is, to persuade people :—

(1) to close their ears to enemy propaganda ;

(2) to lend a hand in stablishing prices ;

(3) to fight the Battle of Inflation ; and

(4) to carry on a campaign for travelling less.

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**ENEMY PROPAGANDA.** Sir Sultan's reminder, no doubt, is all timely but his proposal to fill the Indian broadcasting programmes with music and other entertainments so as to give the foolish listener no chance to hear enemy propaganda is open to doubt. Music, no doubt, has its charms, but lies have a greater power of temptation. A more effective way would be to oppose lying propaganda with truthful counter-propaganda—not only, through the radio, which does not reach all; and even if it did, can not be understood by all; not only through mass lecturing; but by house to house visits by the National War Front workers, by homely talks, in the language and even in the jargon, which alone they can understand.

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**PRICE STABILISATION** is an economic process, based partly, on Governmental orders and partly on popular co-operation. An incessant war has to be waged against profiteering and the black market. The soldiers on this front can never be the handful of officials enforcing the orders of the Government, but it must be the masses also, down to the marketing housewife. The strategy is to expose trade tyranny.

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**INFLATION.** Savings, big and small, and investment in Defence bonds are the weapons with which to fight inflation. To gain this end, the N. W. F., worker will make his appeal to the 'Haves'.

To the Have-Not's he must direct his appeal to travel less. The 'Haves' can still pay and travel in some luxury even. But the case of the 'Have-Nots' is different. For them travelling now means getting packed in railway carriages like sardines, women shrieking and children suffocated.

**EIRE AND INVASION.** Preparations for the great offensive are well on the way. Col. Frank Knox, the U. S. Navy Secretary has announced that we are on the threshold of the most critical offensive of all times. Captain Oliver Lyttleton, the British Production Minister, has stated that munition production has reached the highest level, including that of landing craft, in particular. But just at the moment there has arisen a snag for which EIRE is responsible. The enemy is using EIRE as a centre of espionage. EIRE is supposed to be neutral, but German and Japanese Legations there transmit military secrets secretly to their Governments in so-called diplomatic bags'. German parachutists with radio sets have landed in EIRE. The success of the Invasion campaign, and the lives of thousands upon thousands of Allied soldiers in Britain, are at stake. The U. S. A. supplied ships to EIRE to bring her supplies. These were torpedoed by German U-boats, but EIRE never even protested. There was therefore nothing to do but to call EIRE to order. So EIRE was asked to close the German and Japanese legations. In reply, EIRE has refused to co-operate, and BRITAIN in return has placed a ban on travelling to EIRE. Other developments may follow, such as the withdrawal of ships lent to EIRE, and the stoppage of supplies of oil, petrol, wheat and machinery from AMERICA.

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**ON THE EVE OF THE INVASION.** 'The Second Front has begun at as it were already,' says General Montgomery, and by way of explanation, General Eisenhower has stated that the air-war now softening the German citadel is a prelude to the coming invasion. It is now becoming clear that the great Anglo-American air offensive, intensified from March 6 and now extending over the whole of N.W. and Central GERMANY, from the Zuider Sea to BERLIN, is in fulfilment of Mr. Churchill's recent promise to the house of Commons, that scales and degrees of air-attack will be reached far beyond the dimensions of anything which has yet been employed or indeed imagined.'

These air battles, tremendous as they even now are, are going to look puny, compared with those that will follow. The Allies are waiting for an improvement in the weather. Given 30 to 60 days of clear weather, says an American Communiqué, the air-offensive will show decesive results.

There are reasons that it should :—

1. To the deadly blows already dealt by the giant bombers of the R. A. F. have now been added the massive strokes of American armadas ; to bases in BRITAIN have been added bases in ITALY.

2. From the U. S. A. comes the report of the Truman Senate Committee that in American war production, 'a major battle has been won'.

3. A few days ago, Mr. Churchill congratulated the British Minister of Air-craft production on the increase in British air-craft production.

4. Only a fraction of the vast numbers of air-craft already turned out from factories have yet been used, unimagined and unimaginable scales of attack will be reached when the full strength is employed.

5. Air-War is not only a matter of numerical strength but of the quality of the machines employed. It is also a question of technical superiority in the making of the

planes. The battle in the air is also a Battle of Science. In the Battle of BRITAIN the *Luftwaffe* was beaten despite its numerical superiority, because, plane for plane, the *Spitfire* and the *Lancaster* were better. 'By the knowledge and the skill of a few young scientists sitting behind Cathode ray tubes' as Professor Hill said in his NEW DELHI broadcast BRITAIN was saved. In their latest perfected form the *Spitfire*, the *Lancaster* and the *Mosquito* still lead.

Not content with perfecting the old types, British scientists are designing new types. Jet-projection is one of the new devices. The 1,200 lb block-buster is another. It requires as much time and labour to make one of these monster busters as it does to build a plane. Their destructive power is enormous. A few of them smashed the Gnome—Rhone aircraft factory. Its blast effect is even more disastrous than its actual impact. The rocket gun is still another new invention : rocket shells or projectiles fired into the air rush with a terrific speed, and blast the enemy planes out of existence.

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**FEBRUARY FIGURES.** Statistics of the Air offensive for February are impressive The Allied 8th and 15th Air Forces based on Britain and Italy, dropped 24,000 tons of bombs and destroyed more than 905 enemy aircraft, that is, more than the enemy can manufacture in a month. The 8th Air Force carried out 20 major attacks on 17 aircraft factories; and the 15th Air Force, 22 attacks on 20 factories.

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**THE WEEK'S TOLL.** During the weeks under review, BERLIN was the chief target of American bombing. 350,000 incendiary bombs and 10,000 high explosive bombs were hurled on the city, directed particularly on the Erkner factories producing ball-bearing components, and the Berliner Machinebau factory making torpedo parts. 150 medium bombers softened two airfields in HOLLAND, to prevent German planes in them from taking off to dispute the passage of the Allied bombers to BERLIN.

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**MATTERS NAVAL.** The war at sea is going well. In February, more U-boats were sunk than Allied merchantmen were destroyed. The vexed question of the disposal of the surrendered Italian fleet has been solved to the satisfaction of all parties. For the present the fleet will be left intact to operate in the Mediterranean. A dozen British and American surface warships, and a score of other naval units will be transferred to RUSSIA. The question of ceding a third part of the Italian fleet or *its equivalant*, to RUSSIA, will be decided later.

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**ON THE ITALIAN FRONT,** weather continues to delay the operations. General Sir. Harold Alexander, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in ITALY, who has just completed his tour of inspection of the ANZIO beach-head is confident. He has observed that things were very much better now in the beach-head than they were three weeks ago. He has added, rather mysteriously, 'when we shall be able to break out, it is difficult to say, *but other things are happening.*'

Men, equipment and leadership win a battle—and determination, guts and confidence. These the Allied Armies in ITALY possess. Hence General Alexander's confidence.

**THE BIG SQUEEZE.** In RUSSIA, the southern offensive or what is called the 'Big squeeze', to out-flank and surround Von Manstein's forces in Western UKRAINE has made considerable progress. The pattern is to cut the LWOW-ODESSA line at PROSKUROU and TARNOPOL, and to compel him to fall back on the Dniester, BESSARABIA and the Carpathians. If he did so, he would leave a gap of 200 miles between the Pripet Marshes and the Carpathians, by which the Russian armies could enter Central EUROPE. The 'big squeeze' has been directed against five key-towns—TARNOPOL, PROSKUROV, VINNITSA, NIKOLAYEV and KHERSON. Of these, KHERSON has fallen. Street-battles are being fought in TARNOPOL.

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**MATTERS EUROPEAN.—**

1. RUSSIA has, in a way, recognised the Badoglio Government in ITALY by agreeing to exchange representatives.

2. It is now clear that the break-down of talks with TURKEY has had something to do with the decisions taken about the Italian fleet. The plan at first was to hand over a third of the Italian fleet to the Russians, to be used to effect landings along the Rumanian and Bulgarian coasts in the Black Sea. Before reaching their destination they would have to pass through the Turkish Straits.

But as the Turkish talks broke down the DARDENELLES could not be used.

In the circumstances, the Allies have taken the decision to leave the Italian fleet alone, and transfer British and American ships to RUSSIA—to be used on the MURMANSK route.

(3) Every effort is being made to hasten the defection of BULGARIA. Russian pressure and Allied bombing have done much already to demoralise the people. Their only temptation at present to continue under Hitler is the desire to retain the parts of YUGOSLAVIA and GREECE that they have seized. Inside BULGARIA there are several parties, the intelligentsia the Pro-Nazis and the Communist—led underground. Between extreme parties is the democratic Group which admires German 'efficiency' but hates Nazism, which is pro-Russian but hates Communism and which desires an all-Balkan federation but would retain seized territory. As this is the most powerful element in BULGARIA, the peace talks are delayed.

(4) Prince Stirbay of RUMANIA is going to BUCHAREST for peace talks. It is believed that he has already had conversations with the Allied authorities.

(5) The YUGOSLAV Ambassador to RUSSIA and the head of the YUGOSLAV Military Mission have severed relations with the YUGOSLAV Royal Government in CAIRO, and placed themselves under General Tito.

(6) The Allies are lenient to Franco, perhaps giving him a long rope. It is now a month since they placed an embargo on petroleum, going into SPAIN, but it would appear that 'some' supplies still trickle into SPAIN.

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**HUKAWNG.** The fight for MAINGKVAN and WALLAWBUM in N. BURMA has been won, and 2,000 Japanese have been killed Mopping up operations continue. General Stilwell, Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. forces in CHINA is confident that the whole HUKAWNG valley will soon be retaken. He has said: 'Although I have often been wrong I am willing to hazard the guess that the entire HUKAWNG valley will soon be ours BUTHIDAUNG has fallen.

# RUSSIA'S GENEROUS PEACE TERMS TO FINLAND.

*(Strategist).*

London commentators reviewing Russia's peace terms to Finland draw special attention to the following views expressed by London newspapers:

*The Times* diplomatic correspondent writes: "In London the terms have been warmly welcomed for their moderation, and the hope is widely expressed that the Finns will decide on acceptance. The Russians have kept the British and American Governments informed of the terms proposed—this notwithstanding that the United States is not at war with Finland and is not in military alliance with Russia. Under the Anglo-Russian Treaty of 1942, the contracting parties undertook not to negotiate or conclude except by mutual consent any armistice or peace treaty.

That stipulation has been observed by the Russians in the case of Finland, as it was by the Americans and ourselves in the case of Italy."

The Communist *Daily Worker* writes: "It was of their own free will that Finland's rulers broke the terms of the Soviet-Finnish Peace Treaty of 1941—it was not a sudden choice, nor was it brought about by coercion. The Russian terms are remarkable for their generosity. The significance of the generous terms offered to Finland will not be lost upon Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria."

The *Daily Express* writes: "Britain has already recognised Russia's just claim to security in East Europe. If Russia's terms to Finland are such as to secure Russia in the far north, and ensure that Finland gives no further aid to our enemy, they are generous. Finns had better accept them and quickly."

London commentators add that the 1940 frontier was based on the minimum needs of Russian security, as has been amply proved during the operations of the past two and a half years. The concessions to Russia along Finland's east frontier, small as they are, were essential to safeguard the vital strategic railway from Murmansk, which—thanks largely to this territorial adjustment—has been able to carry immense quantities of Allied supplies to Russia during the Russo-German war. The Finnish concession to Russia in the Karelian Isthmus with the city of Viipuri was essential to the security of Leningrad, the second city in Russia.

The lease of the Hangoe naval base is essential for the naval protection of Leningrad, by safeguarding the approach to the Russian base of Kronstadt. The question of the Petsamo area, adjacent to the key port of Murmansk, Russia has generously offered to negotiate later.

In connection with the German reactions to the Finnish peace moves, attention is drawn to the following by Vernon Bartlett, the *News Chronicle* diplomatic correspondent: "One line of German propaganda is to the effect, 'Moscow knows that Finland will not intern the German troops even if she could.' The condition that these troops must be rendered harmless is therefore said to be a trick, which will enable Soviet armies to occupy Finland and having done so remain in occupation for years to come. It can be stated that the Soviet Government would guarantee the withdrawal of any Russian troops sent into Finland as soon as military operations against the Germans there have been completed."

# KOLONTAY.

(*From the* ***Daily Herald***).

The Soviet Ambassador in Stockholm, Mme Alexandra Kolontay, now aged 73, is still one of the most colourful figures in all the Soviet Union. She was a born revolutionary. Her father was a Tsarist General. He tried to tame her and could not. He planned to keep her away from all revolutionary influences. Then the police discovered that she was helping to plan a big textile strike. He arranged for her to be spirited out of Russia. But she beat him, and was discovered with her own secret courier service working through revolutionaries in Paris, London and Geneva. She travelled almost all over Europe—Britain, Italy, Scandinavia, the Low Countries, France and Germany.

All the time she was studying the political picture, mastering the set-up and technique and training herself as a superb linguist. In London she met Lenin. She had much in common with him, and determined on a great political career for herself. By 1915 she had already made a name for herself as a revolutionary orator and writer.

The next year found her in New York with Trotsky and Bukharin, on the staff of *Novy Mir*, a revolutionary Russian weekly, published there. In 1917 the paper and its staff were back in Russia. She was thrown into jail in the last desperate attempt of the Tsarist Government to stave off the Revolution.

Three days after the Revolution had been proclaimed she was made a member of the Presidium of the Polshevik Congress. She proclaimed the end of family life, and began to lead the feminist movement. She was not always completely satisfied with the new régime, but always her final loyalty was pledged to the Soviet.

She has a weakness for jewelry, and sparkles with diamonds and rubies at State functions. Twice she tried marriage and settling down to a wife's life. First with a Russian aristocrat, then with a Baltic fleet sailor. In 1923 she went to Norway as Russia's diplomatic envoy. In 1930 she was made Ambassador there.

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# SLACKENING DISCIPLINE OF GERMAN NAVY.

(*A. J. McWhinnie*).

Lieutenant R. Boyd, D. S. O., British Submarine Commander, who sank two German ammunition ships off the French Riviera coast, afterwards produced a conclusive proof of the wild firing and panic-stricken tactics by two escorting German warships after he had launched his first torpedo. The British submarine was submerged. But the German escorts in their feverish chaotic reply fired their anti-aircraft guns.

When British warships are in action there is all the scientific coolness of a skilled surgeon in operating. No shouting, no chaos—only purposeful and disciplined action. After the two ammunition ships had been sunk, German escorts, in the words of Lieutenant Boyd, "in an unequal struggle tucked their heads into a beach and presented rounded sterns to the storm like dejected cattle on a wet windy day." This exposure of the German morale at sea is all the more striking, since it follows so soon after the inglorious story of 11 German destroyers which fled from a couple of British light cruisers in the Bay of Biscay.

Admiral Doenitz, Hitler's Naval Commander-in-Chief, must add to his other anxieties, the consideration of morale and efficiency of at least some sections of his dwindling navy. There can be only two possible explanations of the strange German behaviour. Either the men being sent to sea are undertrained and inexperienced, or there is no faith or efficiency in the manning of German anti-submarine weapons.

### TRAWLERS FIGHT MORE CALMLY.

It is no excuse that the German escorts in the Reviera coast action were small-type warships. British trawlers and corvettes are small too. But the skilled calm and scientific fighting of U-boats by the British trawlers and corvettes has been seen time and time again.

Recently, for example, a little British trawler, *Imperialist*, staged an action against a U-boat outside the Bay of Biscay. Until 1939, she was a peaceful fishing trawler, sailing out of Hull. The first news of her at war came when she shot down a Condor aircraft which was trying to attack a British Atlantic convoy. Some time later, she assisted in the capture of a blockade-runner, many times her own size. The trawler's big chance came in the Atlantic approaches of the Bay of Biscay. Up on her cramped bridge, earphoned anti-submarine men detected a submerged U-boat, and forced it to surface with an accurate attack by depth charges.

### SILENCED U-BOAT.

Tho *Imperialist* opened fire with her four-inch gun, and crippled the U-boat's forward gun and continued firing and scored many hits. When the U-boat submerged, the *Imperialist* chased her with more depth charges. The trawler had almost certainly inflicted heavy damage.

Later that night, at almost the same spot, a British destroyer located a surfaced U-boat, sank her, and picked up survivors and took them prisoner.

British naval circles are always reluctant to interpret individual instances of German panic or demoralisation as indications of the German morale generally cracking. But the fact remains that had any British warship engaged with a submarine shown the same signs of panic as were evidenced by those two German ships, a court of enquiry would have been ordered promptly by London. It is doubtful, at this crucial stage of war, whether Berlin dare take the risk of attracting the attention of other German naval personnel to such instances of inefficiency on the sea.

This fear was reflected in the attitude taken by Goebbels when those 11 German Bay of Biscay destroyers fled from two British ships. He decided that the unhappy affair should be put over as a great German victory. With a complete disregard of facts or judgment, he claimed that several British destroyers were sunk in an engagement, although London proved that there were no British destroyers there.

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## AIR ARM'S ROLE IN SECOND FRONT.

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Attack was the theme of Sir Archibald Sinclair's speech on air estimates and the enemy must admit that he had ample justification, writes the *Daily Telegraph*.

For a long time the R. A. F. has held the initiative over Europe and recently in concert with the U. S. Army Air Force it has developed and maintained from two sides a continuous day and night onslaught upon Germany of a destructive power deadly to the *Luftwaffe* and the whole organisation of the Reich. It may well prove, as he said, that

the period between February and March moons was "one of the decisive stages of the whole war."

It is certain that this period, black as it was for Germany, did not see the full development of the Allied air offensive. There are greater forces still to be deployed in more completely concentric assaults.

The Allies look back upon a good year but nowhere has their progress been more encouraging than in the air. Vast tasks of preparation have been successfully completed. There is no doubt now as to the good judgment shown in the selection of design.

When the old question of dive bombers was raised again, Captain Balfour was able to state that a fighter bomber does dive-bombing more successfully than a dive-bomber itself and that the Germans have become aware of the fact and have turned over to fighter-bomber production. Our strategy of design and manufacture was on right lines from the first.

Like everything else it is, nevertheless, capable of improvement and is being continually impreved. While American and British men of science are in full co-operation to develop our weapons, no doubt the Germans have suffered by the fact that the ranks of their scientists have been depleted and enfeebled by the Nazi persecution.

In North Africa and Italy the Anglo-American conception of the right use of the air arm was tested and proved sound.

Sir Archibald Sinclair quoted General Arnold's report that the true form of combined operations is not control of air power by local army commanders using it "in penny packets" but a general scheme which employs aircraft "in a concentrated mass." Air, sea and land forces worked as one. In the Italian battle air transport has been developed to a point where it is taking a vital part, and the establishment of a fully operational Transport Command points forward to larger tasks of this kind in the future.

The combination of air and sea power achieved brilliant success during the past year and naval officers who have played so great a part in frustrating the U-boat campaign heartily acknowledge the debt of their escort vessels to the planes. To make the same combination in offence, German ships attempting to relieve the strain on land transport in Western Europe and to carry iron ore from Northern Norway into Reich ports have had to run the gauntlet of air as well as sea attack and many failed to get through. The skill of the two services in working together thus attained promises well for the time when the Mediterranean methods of offensive by all the three elements are applied on a larger scale. In referring to the invasion plans as they affect the air, Sir Archibald Sinclair confined himself to explaining that while the second British Tactical Air Force under Air Marshal Coningham and the Ninth U. S. A. Air Force under General Breteton would support operations on the Continent, another force under Air Marshall Hill would be responsible for the day and night defence of our islands.

Whether we accept the first German version of renewed attacks on London that they were reprisals for Berlin, or the second that they were designed to interfere with our invasion plans, we must undoubtedly expect that they will be continued. They may become severer, and the suffering and loss which has been and may be inflicated, none will minimise. When we consider what the future may hold, it is obvious that the main factor will be the percentage of German bomber losses, already proportionately higher than those of our incomparably larger forces striking much deeper and with immeasurably greater effect into the Reich. "Attack, however, is the best form of defence in the air as well as on the ground."

# COASTAL COMMAND CLOSES ATLANTIC GAPS.

## GROWING STRENGTH MAKING WINNING CONTRIBUTIONS.

(*Wing Commander L. V. Fraser*).

While R. A. F. bombers and U. S. A. F. Fortresses and Liberators continue their night and day offensive against Germany and occupied Europe, the less spectacular work of the R. A. F. Coastal Command continues without respite. In the words of Sir Archibald Sinclair, Britain's Secretary of State for Air, the war against submarines is essentially a war of wits. The enemy had to spring a surprise but still more has been sprung on him.

Behind the recent announcement that January's sinkings by U-boats were the lowest of the whole war, lies a story of the Coastal Command's first 100,000,000 miles flown since the outbreak of the war.

This impressive total represents over 100,000 sorties, or an average 2,000 monthly throughout the war. During 1940 less than 1,000 operational flights monthly were the extent of the Command's maximum effort. These were carried by aircraft, whose greatest range was only a few hundred miles.

In 1941 and 1942 the monthly average rose to 2,000 sorties, which was already a significant increase, but it was not until 1943 that the peak of 3,000 operational flights monthly was achieved. In other words, on each day every month 100 Coastal Command aircraft were ranging the seas in search of U-boats and enemy convoys, carrying out meteorological, photo and reconnaissance flights.

From the outset, the Coastal Command has played a vitally important part in the combined unrelenting offensive by Britain's surface and air forces against the German under sea shipping menace.

To the Command's first hundred million miles, flown from bases in the United Kingdom and Iceland, must be added a several thousand miles completed by the U. S. Navy Coastal Air Squadron's flying liberators, Catalinas and Venturas.

The Coastal Command's expansion of its equipment with better and faster aircraft is clearly demonstrated by the fact that the first fifty million air miles took two years and 10 months to complete, whereas the second 50 millions have been achieved in 18 months.

The past 18 months have seen the building up of a very powerful force, with which the Coastal Command now strikes relentlessly at enemy shipping along the coasts of Norway, Holland and France, and hunts U-boats from the Arctic to the equator.

Among the numerous aircraft now at the Coastal Command's disposal are modern Halifaxes, Fortresses, Liberators, Sunderlands, Catalinas, Beaufighters, Wellingtons and Hudsons, backed by Mosquitos, Spitfires and Albacores.

One of the greatest problems formerly facing the Command—that of closing the Atlantic gap—has now been solved. To the shore-based aircraft operating from Britain, necessarily limited in their radius, have been added very long range Liberators based on Iceland, whose patrols overlap those of the R. C. A. F. Eastern Air Command from Newfoundland.

Meantime, the acquisition of the Azores has enabled the Fortresses to put the last link in the Coastal Command's vigilant chain of anti-submarine patrols.

# AIR POWER SAVES LIFE.

*(Lieut.-General Sir Douglas Brownrigg).*

The terrific two-way assault on Germany from bases in Britain and Italy holds the pride of place in the war news of the last few days. Nothing like it has ever been experienced before, but there is a lot more of it to come. It is only natural that man should respond slowly to a change, but it is very curious that the average student of war whom I meet seems to have so little sense of proportion when discussing aerial attacks on Germany and the German occupied territory.

The repulse of the attack on the Anzio beach-head, or the capture of 10 German divisions on the Middle Dnieper, or the first big British victory over the Japanese in Burma evoked agreeable reactions, but the mighty effect of air power seems little appreciated, unless it be to bemoan the necessity for so much material damage and loss of so many gallant lives.

Yet air power saves rather than destroys life. The damage done to industrial Germany will save countless lives when land and sea forces move forward into action against Continental Europe. We have proof of this in the comparison between the cost of our victories in North Africa and the bill in manhood which we had to pay in France in the last war. Air supremacy enabled our land forces to move from Alamein to Algiers, to complete the destruction of Von Arnim's army of a quarter of a million men, at a cost to ourselves of some 40,000 casualties. Compare this with a quarter of a million British casualties in Passchendal.

Day in and day out the assault on Germany is a picture of air supremacy in a grand manner. In the last few days, 10 major aerial attacks have been made on Germany by day and by night, in which over 15,000 tons of bombs have been dropped. The loss of valuable lives has been heavy, but that is not the way to assess the result. Lives lost on fruitless errands are wasted, but lives laid down for an object gained are part of the dreadful price war demands.

The errands on which British American Allied air crews have been engaged have not been fruitless. They have had, and are having, every whit as much effect on the outcome of the war as the magnificent land victories on the Russian front, or the battle against U-boats in the Atlantic. The great air offensives from Britain and Italy are a complement of the Russian land offensive from the Black Sea to the Gulf of Finland. In modern war, land power and sea power are bereft of strength, unless air power is there to watch over them.

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# THE PILOTLESS PLANE.

*(From the Manchester Guardian).*

The Prime Minister's reference in the Commons to the possibility that the enemy is planning to employ pilotless aircraft in future attacks on Britain draws renewed attention to a development generally regarded as something entirely new in warfare. This is not the case, however, and if it is a fact that Germany is producing aircraft of this kind, it means that she has adopted the aircraft radio control system, which was evolved and brought to practical form in the closing phase of the last war by British scientists.

Their aim was to produce pilotless aircraft, carrying bombs that could be steered towards the target from the control base by means of wireless radiation, which could activate directional control of the mechanism on the machine.

Several different types of aeroplane of this class were built and flown successfully in 1917 and 1918. In the design of one type Captain Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, then on the staff of an aircraft manufacturing company, took a leading part. It was a small catapult-launched monoplane with a wing span of about 20 feet, and was fitted with a 40-h. p. A.B.C. engine specially manufactured for the job.

The whole project was handled with the greatest secrecy, and when the aircraft was undergoing its trials, it was flown from an aerodrome surrounded by sentries to prevent interlopers from seeing it at close quarters. The experimental station was in Middlesex. The secrecy which attended the evolution of this pilotless plane 26 years ago was zealously maintained throughout its later progress, which terminated in the adoption in 1936 of the Airspeed Queen Wasp, a wireless-controlled 350-h. p. biplane employed for anti-aircraft gunnery practice.

It can be safely assumed that the vigilance referred to by Mr. Churchill with which the enemy's preparations for fresh forms of attack are being watched, is being made easier because of the special knowledge and experience gained in the past in Britain with these pilotless aircraft.

## SOME "EXPLANATIONS"

The Leningrad front is crumbling: the frightened German civilian needs some "shots' of propaganda to keep him from giving up. Here are the actual words of D. N. B.'s military commentator, Martin Hallensleben over Berlin Radio on January 25th. As the German listener gets close to his loudspeaker, anxious for comfort and enlightenment, this is what he hears:

"The northern sector of the Eastern front represents the usual appearance of a Soviet large-scale operation. The Soviet Command is trying to break through with a fresh concentration of masses of troops and material. The Germans once again are using mobile methods of fighting to counter the mass onslaught of the enemy. They evade action where this seems to be called for".

Not so good—or is it?

Hallensleben continues: "The battle in the whole sector between Lake Ilmen and Leningrad has up to now shown no factors differing in the slightest from the experience gained on all other sectors of the front during the last few months".

True—only too true, the same old story.

Then Hallensleben adds: "The massing of artillery to an extent not yet experienced in this war allows the deduction that the Bolsheviks were well aware of the strength and quality of the German defensive system. It was this massing of medium and heavy artillery alone which enabled them to *dent the first line of the German system of positions* at the spearhead points of their most concentrated wedges".

Those dents—sounds bad.

In a tone of triumph he ends by saying: "But looking closer at things, it is seen that these are positions which the Germans must have evacuated already, *having realized the general situation*".

Evacuation again—we thought so.

By now, we imagine, the German listener has also realised the general situation—another "Victorious" retreat.

# LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CHRISTISON, VICTOR OF THE ARAKAN BATTLE.

(*From the Daily Express*).

Lieutenant-General Alexander F. P. Christison, one of the victors of the Arakan battle in Burma, is waging a war of vengeance.

Every yard of rock and jungle won back by his 15th Corps brings him nearer to the spot where his only son, Lieutenant John Anthony Alexander Christison, aged 25, died resisting the Japanese invader two years ago.

"My brother will have been only too glad to get some of his own back on the Japs—only too delighted to have some revenge," said Sir Robert Alexander Christison of Lympstone, Devon.

"His son was fighting with the regiment he commanded himself in 1937—1938, the Duke of Wellingtons. But my brother was at Quetta commanding the 25th Army Corps when his boy was killed in the retreat from Burma. By his death our Baronetcy comes to an end. My brother will succeed to it at my death, but after him there will be no heir now."

A Passion Cross set upon a three-fold base forms the family crest of the Christisons and the family motto is "Vitam dirigat." (May it guide my life).

Most of General Christison's life—he is 50—has been spent in soldiering. He went straight to France from the O. T. C. at Oxford during the last war. With the exception of a period in this country between 1941 and 1942, he has been in India throughout this war. He was given command of the 15th Corps a few months ago."

# LIMELIGHT ON BURMA.

(*The Daily Express*).

Human imagination is a feeble thing to cope with this vast war. In our intentions we are one with every soldier, sailor and airman all over the world in the battles they are fighting for the freedom of the human spirit. But, with human weakness, our eyes follow only where the limelight directs. Other phases of war drop back in our minds until the lamps swing over and a sudden glare illuminates them.

In recent weeks our eyes have been on Europe. We have seen our arch enemy recoil from our air assaults. We have seen his savage legions flung on the Anzio bridgehead in vain. And we have thought anxiously of our youngsters vigilant in the mud and misery of campaign.

To-day our minds, obedient to the swinging limelight, are thrown across the world to Burma. Here is heroism, horror and toughness, sacrifice and endurance. It comes from the men of the Fifth and Seventh Divisions of the Fourteenth Army at Arakan. These are men who in the words of General Christison, have won our first "major victory" over the Japanese on land. They come from Lincolnshire and West Yorkshire, and the Border. In the swamps of Burma our men are fighting our war as surely as in the German air and in the Apennine gullies. Strange and terrible warfare, where a bloodthirsty enemy knows no compassion for the wounded, and kills, like a mad animal, not only in the jungle but in captured hospitals and ambulances. A British officer speaks: "I lay all night listening as they walked up and down. At intervals a patient would cry 'Don't! Don't!' Then there would be silence."

Strange and terrible, where the jungle whispers death at each footfall of a Jap, snake or insect; where fevers bring strong and healthy soldiers to shaking sickness.

To-day we think on these things. But let us think also of the triumphs of our young men—even over these conditions. A few years ago they saw their lives clear ahead of them—at desk, in an office, a place by the bench, home, wife and family, a game of darts on Saturday night. If any of them even dreamed of adventures in tropical jungle, it was as boys dream long, long thoughts of youth. They dream other dreams nowadays, and their wives and mothers dream with them.

But they fight, too. Neither the terrors of the jungle nor the vile cruelties of the Jap can daunt them. At the Ngakyedauk Pass the indomitable Seventh stood fast, boxed up as they were, fought back through the Mayu ridge, and burst open an encirclement which Tokyo hailed as an annihilation. Now the Japanese are retreating.

Viewed against the bewildering landscape of the world war, the battle for the Ngakyedauk Pass in Burma may seem small. As a symbol of courage, patience and adaptability, it is truly great and truly magnificent.

# INSIDE BURMA.

(This story, told by a Kren soldier, gives a broad picture of everyday-life in Burma under the Japanese).

When I was given a chance of going back into Burma I accepted it gladly. My family were still there. So one early morning before it was light, I found myself crossing the wide Chindwin river.

We had definite jobs to do on the other side. Often it meant stiff fighting, but we accomplished them. We were than told to get back to India.

We found that the village people were frightened of the Japanese, and though many wanted to help us by selling us food, they dared not do so. On our way to a village near by to get some rice we met a Japanese patrol, and were allowed to go on. The next took us prisoner. We were put into the village lock-up. This, for those who have never

seen one, is like a large grilled cage at a zoo. But it is built to contain that large and strong animal, man. There were other prisoners there. I had an opportunity of talking to a Burmese policeman who was put on us to guard us. He said many of his village people had been forced to work for the Japanese. One man, who wanted to harvest his paddy, argued about being sent miles away in a labour gang. He was tied to a tree and whipped, and hot water was poured into his ears. After that, no one argued.

From what I saw of the Japanese all the time, I can believe all the things I hear that they have done.

Soon I was moved to another prison. Men taken in uniform soon had good shirts, shorts or trousers taken from them. If they were lucky, they were given ragged duplicates in exchange. Treatment was harsh. We all knew the kick of the heavy Jap boot and the clout across the face. We were given no proper clothes to keep out the cold in this hill place. The food was of poor quality. I remember seeing an Indian, a nice fellow he was, being led away from the prison cage on the end of a rope. A pick and shovel party went too, and a medical man. He was killed, I heard, by some sort of injection. Probably they were experimenting. I think most doctors use guinea pigs or rats; the Japanese preferred to use this Indian prisoner.

Then, with a few others, I had a chance to escape. I had made soldiers believe that Burma was my country, and that I should never run away. So they used me as a porter coolie. With several others, I agreed to slip away into the jungle.

All the night before I lay awake, and I prayed a good deal. I kept thinking, "Suppose we are caught." I knew the sort of thing that would happen to us. I had seen others suffer and heard their screams. But next morning some of the other coolies gave us some of their rice and salt, and some matches, and wished us luck. We felt braver.

Slipping away into the jungle was quite easy. But travelling stealthily and lying hidden at night, equally afraid of men and of wild beasts, was very bad. Our food soon ran out. We had fever. I told the others. "We had better pray. Whether you are a Hindu, Muhammedan or Christian, pray to your God to help us now." We prayed, each in his own way. At last I slept.

We came to a village, where they fed us. The villagers asked us if it was true that the Japanese had already occupied Delhi. We laughed, and they were happy. They liked to see our planes in their air over the jungle. Sitting round the fire, they talked of the pleasant peaceful days before the Japanese came.

We asked if the Japanese soldiers tried to learn their language. An old woman took the cheroot from her mouth and spat. "A few words only," she said. "We want a cart. Are there any chickens? Are there any women?" Just phrases like that. No one feels safe here now. If we complain, we are told that the Japanese soldier is suffering great hardship in the campaign for Burmese liberation, and that we should be proud to help them."

We rested for three days and than resumed our march. We came to a path which we followed until we met a British patrol.

# JAPANESE CRUELTY.

In an interview with an Army Observer a Gurkha soldier related the story of the capture and rescue of his officer after his hands had been cut off by the Japanese.

" We were on patrol on the Assam-Burma border," the soldier said. " There were six of us including our officer, a 23-year-old lieutenant. We were ambushed by a large party of Japs. We shot our way out with our automatics, but the officer was wounded in the leg and dropped. We were so outnumbered that we could not possibly rescue him.

" Two days later, we sent out a stronger patrol into a village which the Japs evacuated when they heard us coming. We found our officer roped to a tree. The Japs had cut off both his hands and bound the stumps with tobacco leaf. But he was still alive."

# JAPS BEHEAD PRISONERS FOR REFUSING INFORMATION.

## EXECUTIONERS KNOWN BY NAME.

On the lengthening list of Japanese murderers six new names appear.

Lieutenant Colonel Okata, and Lieutenants Araki, Sukahara, Tamaki, Yoshicka and Uchimura are identified as officers who have executed Indian and British prisoners of war.

An impressed interpreter, who has escaped, states that the prisoners were usually executed because they refused to answer questions concerning Allied dispositions. The method employed was to tie the prisoner to a tree for interrogation. If answers were unsatisfactory, he was slapped and kicked, and thereafter left trussed up without food or drink. If this treatment failed to shake his resolution, he was untied, forced to kneel, and his head struck off with a sword.

In one case a wounded officer was beheaded because, as a Jap callously declared, " they had no medicine for him."

# 'AUNTS' AND 'NEPHEWS'.

(*From the South Indian Bulletin*).

One of the Generals who periodically visits the Depot at the Banqueting Hall once referred to us as "Universal Aunts", and aunts sometimes get very odd correspondence from their nephews. Most letters from nephews want something done for them, and ours are no exception. Some of our nephews are out in small parties in very lonely places, where it is hard to get any of the amenities of life; one lot of these could increase the comfort of their canteen building very much if they could manage to lead the electric light across to it from their station; they could scrounge the wire, but had no hope of getting lamp-holders, shades, bulbs and switches. It was, it seemed, no use to ask a

grandmotherly Government for these, so an appeal had to be made to Aunt, which was of course successful; but it was lucky they could scrounge that wire, or even Aunt might have been defeated.

Another of these little isolated units complained that their wireless set would not work, and were told, as usual, to send it in and we would see to it. This was the report of our dealer after examining the set. "The set had been kept in such a neglected condition that small birds had made it their home, as is to be found from the birds' nests inside. Moreover, it seems rats had free access to this set, and many joints have been cut off." We have had the set mended all right, but Aunt had some sharp remarks to make to the nephews that time.

"Thank you very much indeed for sending us the gramophone records and the literature. They are a great treat and are very much appreciated. I wish to purchase three more gramophones for the troops. We are still growing, and I would like two for the new men and one for the N. C. O.'s Club which I have started. I would be grateful for any railway posters of the South of India. They are a great splash of colour in a dull barrack room, and should keep my young recruits happy. I am starting a dramatic society. If you could please collect any second-hand gear, including wigs and false whiskers, they would be very much appreciated. The Battalion sends you its very best salaams and grateful thanks for all you have done for us." We got the wigs and whiskers for them easily enough, but gramophones and posters are getting increasingly difficult. We will very gladly buy any gramophones or large pictures, preferably brightly coloured, which anyone may have to offer.

Another letter from a Madras Unit, this time with the Fourteenth Army. "Anything you can send us by way of amenities will be gratefully acknowledged, and if you can possibly include a few fishing nets of the throw type (Tamil—*Vichuvalai*) amongst your gifts, the men will appreciate it very much." We have already sent them a consignment of razor blades and writing materials, for which they had specially asked earlier, as well as our usual gifts of Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam books and indoor games for their recreation rooms. We are sending them more of these, and are calling in experts on the question of throw nets.

However, all our letters are not "askings", we get some delightful letters of thanks as well. One is "for a generous gift of sweetmeats sent by you to this Area where it is impossible to obtain such nice things for the troops. It was highly appreciated by all ranks of my Coy. They like it very much, and are very grateful to you and your Committee who are well looking after them in all respects." Another is from a gunner. "As you probably know. L. A. A. Regiments are very split up. I have 36 separate gun sites as well as 13 other small H. Qs. I find I can manage to look after the H. Qs. fairly well, but it is impossible for me to get enough vernacular publications, games, etc., for all the gun sites. Your help is going to be a Godsend."

This is a fair representative collection of our letters, not dug out from the files, but all received during the past week. One last letter, which I must admit is three months' old, comes, not from a military unit, but from one of our working parties. "This month also she sent the wool through my niece, i.e., one of her pupils. Unfortunately a ball of wool, i. e., half of the big skein was taken away by a kite on her way home. I thank God for the girl was left unhurt. I am really very sorry to inform you about this unexpected news." In face of this hairbreadth escape we wrote off half an ounce of wool.

Members of the public are requested to make a free present of any suitable old Tamil books they can spare for the perusal, in their leisure time, of our soldiers outside India.

Books so given will be handed over to the Superintendent of the State Press, who will arrange to despatch them.

## PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

# PROGRAMME.

### LECTURE CLXXXIX. (*Batch 5*).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 18- 3-44 | Municipal Office | ... 6.00 p.m. |
| 19- 3-44 | Nirpalani | ... 7.00 „ |
| „ | Avur | ... 7.30 „ |
| 20- 3-44 | Tirumayyam | ... 7.00 „ |
| „ | Melur | ... 7.30 „ |
| 21- 3-44 | Pallivasal | ... 7.00 „ |
| „ | Pillamangalam | ... 7.30 „ |
| 22- 3-44 | Vellanur | ... 7.00 p.m. |
| „ | Sembattur | ... 7.30 „ |
| 23- 3-44 | Puliyur | ... 7.00 „ |
| „ | Kannangudi | ... 7.30 „ |
| 24- 3-44 | Konnaiyur | ... 7.00 „ |
| „ | P. Puduppatti | ... 7.30 „ |

### LECTURE CXC. (*Batch 6*).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25- 3-44 | Municipal Office | ... 6.00 p.m. |
| 26- 3-44 | Kilanilai-Puduppatti | .. 7.00 „ |
| „ | Kilanilai | ... 7.30 „ |
| 27- 3-44 | Perumanadu | ... 7.00 „ |
| „ | Pulvayal | ... 7.30 „ |
| 28- 3-44 | Sadayampatti | ... 7.00 „ |
| „ | Oliyamangalam | ... 7.30 „ |
| 29- 3-44 | Annavasal | ... 7.00 p.m. |
| „ | Ariyur | ... 7.30 „ |
| 30- 3-44 | Malampatti | ... 7.00 „ |
| „ | Perambur | ... 7.30 „ |
| 31- 3-44 | Malaikkudippatti | ... 7.00 „ |
| „ | Tulaiyanur | ... 7.30 „ |

### RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

| | |
|---|---|
| 18— 3—44 | Tirumayyam. |
| 19— 3—44 | Embal. |
| 21— 3—44 | Ramachandrapuram. |
| 23— 3—44 | Kulipirai. |
| 24— 3—44 | Pudukkottai. |
| 25— 3—44 | Ponnamaravathi. |
| 26— 3—44 | Kodumbalur. |
| 29— 3—44 | Vadakadu. |
| 30— 3—44 | Alangudi. |
| 31— 3—44 | Pudukkottai. |

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai, 750—20-3-44.